

**Erie County Department of Mental Health  
Housing Planning Group  
Meeting Summary  
January 24, 2006**

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Participants: Alyssa Hebel, Elizabeth McClam, Bobbie Hernandez, Sondra Brown, Doug Braddock, Bob Roth, Pat Ciocca Braciszewski, Jean Jones, Donna Crawford, and Heather Laney

Facilitator: Eric Weigel, Erie County Housing Coordinator

Co-Facilitator: Don Dauman, ECDMH Contract Coordinator

**Summary of meeting topics/discussion:**

**1. HUD renewal/new project submissions – Don Dauman**

Don reported on the consolidation of S + C II with S + C III, upcoming APR's, the status of contract renewals and funding availability for new project submissions. He also discussed criteria for chronic homelessness and the need for proper documentation to verify status.

**2. Department of Mental Health website**

[www.erie.gov/health/mentalhealth](http://www.erie.gov/health/mentalhealth)

The website provides links to information on policy, procedures, types of housing, housing applications, and contact information. The importance of using the proper forms with required documentation was stressed.

**3. OMH Three Year Plan – Charlie Sabatino**

The Mental Health Subcommittee is currently gathering information and listing priorities (growth, clubhouses, youth in transition, dual diagnoses, upcoming needs and goals for the next three years). Ways to broaden generic services and services to the elderly are also being explored.

**4. Safe Haven**

Lake Shore is working toward implementation.

**5. Forensic Mental Health re-integration**

Problems associated with prison population transition into community at large were discussed. Funding has been received by ECDMH, an RFP will follow soon. A specific program is

needed to house sex offenders with SPMI diagnosis while protecting the surrounding community.

**6. Home Ownership Process for Everyone – HOPE project**

This project provides a workable goal for certain individuals to provide stability in their lives. Low income loans from OMH and consumer credit counseling will help to ensure the best chance of success.

**7. Workforce Investment Board – WIB process**

The goal is to integrate needed services into a one-stop employment center. The WIB is working with VESID to provide training for disabled workers to re-enter the mainstream workforce.

**8. Future Housing Needs**

Don Dauman reported on the HIT meeting review of policy and procedures. New HUD reporting requirements will lead to more mainstream resources. Ideas were discussed for maximizing resources and streamlining the process. Participants were asked to consider new ways of dealing with unusual circumstances in housing difficult to serve populations. The housing needs for underserved populations were addressed with a discussion of family care and faith-based initiatives. Participants were asked to meet with religious leaders and coordinate their efforts.

**New Business**

No new business was discussed.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2006  
@ 9:00 am**

**McKinley Square  
2704 Main St.  
Buffalo, NY 14214**